



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER FIGHTER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING WING
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET
NAVAL AIR STATION MIRAMAR
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92145

IN REPLY REFER TO:

60
5720
Ser

320

5 MAR 1981

From: Commander Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing,
U. S. Pacific Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1); submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

1. In accordance with reference (a), the COMFITAEEWWINGPAC Command History for 1980 is hereby submitted.

Paul T. Gillcrist
PAUL T. GILLCRIST

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9)
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVAIRPAC

Rear Admiral Paul T. Gillcrist entered the Naval Aviation College Program (V-5) in 1946 at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. He left the V-5 program in 1948 to accept an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy. Graduating from the Academy in 1952, he reported for duty to Fighter Squadron 191 and deployed to the Western Pacific in USS ORISKANY (CVA-34).

Following a tour of duty as a Weapons Delivery Instructor at Fleet Air Gunnery Unit, Pacific, from 1955-1957, Rear Admiral Gillcrist was selected for U. S. Naval Test Pilot Training. Upon graduation in 1958, he served a tour as project test pilot in the Carrier Branch, Flight Test Division, Naval Air Test center.

Rear Admiral Gillcrist deployed with Fighter Squadron 62 in USS LEXINGTON (CVA-16) during Cuban Contingency Operations in 1961, and in USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA-38) in the Mediterranean in 1963. He was selected for post graduate school in 1964 and received his Master's Degree at American University in 1965.

Rear Admiral Gillcrist served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Fighter Squadron 53 making deployments to the Tonkin Gulf in USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) in 1966, USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) in 1967 and USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) in 1968.

Following a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Rear Admiral Gillcrist was assigned as Commander Carrier Air Wing THREE and deployed to the Mediterranean in 1971 in USS SARATOGA (CVA-60).

Rear Admiral Gillcrist served as Director, Priorities Analysis Group for the Chief of Naval Operations in 1973. He was the Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy in 1975.

From 1975 to 1977, Rear Admiral Gillcrist was the Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida. Subsequently, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff (Current Operations), Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet from 1977 until 1979. He assumed his current position as Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet on 17 May 1979.

During his career, Rear Admiral Gillcrist has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Air Medal (thirteen awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, the Vietnamese Air Gallantry Cross and various campaign ribbons.

Rear Admiral Gillcrist is married to the former (b) (6). They have four children, (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6).

BASIC HISTORY

The Commander Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet (COMFITAEEWWINGPAC) is headquartered at Naval Air Station Miramar, near San Diego, California.

It was originally established in July, 1965 as Commander Fleet Air Miramar, a functional commander of Pacific Fleet fighter units and as a subordinate of the Commander Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC).

It was reorganized in July, 1973 to include the Airborne Early Warning (VAW) aircraft community. One of five Functional Wing Commanders of COMNAVAIRPAC, it was redesignated COMFIT-AEEWWINGPAC.

The missions of COMFITAEEWWINGPAC are: Indoctrination and training of fleet replacement aircrews and maintenance personnel for the Pacific Fleet's VF/VAW/VC communities; maintain the Pacific Fleet's VF/VAW/VC communities to their best operational readiness.

COMFITAEEWWINGPAC has 36 subordinate units which include: four carrier air wings; four fleet replacement squadrons; eight F-14 TOMCAT squadrons; four F-4 PHANTOM squadrons; six E-2 HAWKEYE squadrons; one A-4 SKYHAWK squadron; the Navy Fighter Weapons School; a Guided Missile Unit; one Air Test and Evaluation squadron; four reserve squadrons; one Naval Air Station, and one Naval Air Facility.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR 1980

JAN

- . Initiated the COMFITAEEWWINGPAC "No Notice" missile shoots to increase unit awareness and motivation toward total upkeep of aircraft weapons delivery and guidance systems.
- 1 VAW-112 commenced transition to E-2C aircraft.
- 11 VADM Wesley MCDONALD visited NAS Miramar to discuss safety trends and new programs in aviation retention statistics.
- 16 Hosted Mr. Charles Murphy, a professional staff member from the House Armed Services Committee and his military guide, LCOL (b)(6) COMFITAEEWWINGPAC staff members provided briefings on maintenance trends.
- 29 ADM WEISNER/VADM KINNEAR arrived onboard NAS Miramar enroute to USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) for the COMNAVAIRPAC Change of Command.

FEB

- 1 CNO arrives NAS Miramar enroute to a SEAPOWERS Symposium and dinner in his honor.
- 3 Completed pre-deployment aircraft and Ground Support Equipment material condition inspections on VF-24, VF-211 and VAW-116.
- 11 GEN Joe FOSS USMC (Ret) visited COMFITAEEWWINGPAC Headquarters enroute to being a guest speaker for the NAS Miramar Prayer Breakfast.
- 18 CDR (b)(6) and LCDR (b)(6) provided significant input to the first Navy/Air Force inter-operability conference, held at Langley, Virginia.
- 20 ISIC Command Inspection of COMCARAIRWING TWO
- 24 VAW-114 returns from WESTPAC cruise (cruise commenced 1 JUN 79).
- 26 ISIC Command Inspection of COMCARAIRWING ELEVEN.
- 26 Deployed CVW-9 with VF-24, VF-211 and VAW-116 in Full Mission Capable.

MAR

Provided briefing to VADM SEYMOUR, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command on general problems of the Wing relating to aircraft and their maintenance.

26 , ISIC Command Inspection of VF-21.

APR

15 RADM LAUTERMILCH, COMCRUDESGRU FIVE, made a courtesy call on RADM GILLCRIST and received a brief on Wing AAW progress.

MAY

Established the Users Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) Committee. Committee insures major ATE problems are identified and prioritized for correction.

Four post-deployment aircraft and Ground Support Equipment material condition inspections were conducted on VF-51, VF-111, VAW-114 and VFP-63, DET 1.

23 BGEN MARKENSANO, 20th NORAD Regional Reserve Commander, made a courtesy call on RADM GILLCRIST.

26 VAW-112 returns from WESTPAC cruise (cruise commenced 10 SEP 79).

JUN

3 Mr. William Purdue, COMNAVAIRSYSCOM Code PMA-241 (F-14 Readiness) visited the COMFITAEEWWINGPAC Staff for briefings and discussions.

11 VAW-113 returns from WESTPAC cruise (cruise commenced 13 NOV 79).

27 ISIC Command Inspection of Naval Air Facility, El Centro, California.

30 VAW-112 was presented the annual Battle "E" Award by RADM GILLCRIST.

JUL

CDR (b) (6) relieved CDR (b) (6) as the Fighter/Airborne Early Warning Wing Maintenance Officer in July 1980.

11 ISIC Command Inspection of Naval Air Station, Miramar, San Diego, California.

30 COMFITAEEWINGPAC Headquarters was visited by Professor Raymond Tante, CNO Executive Panel for Middle Eastern Affairs. Dr. Tante was hosted by CDR (b) (6) VAW Assistant Readiness Officer.

AUG

Completed four pre-deployment aircraft and Ground Support Equipment material condition inspections on VF-1, VF-2, VAW-117 and VFP-63, DET 4.

5 VADM SEYMOUR, COMNAVAIRSYSCOM received an orientation tour and briefing on F-14/E-2 Readiness and problem areas.

14 ISIC Command Inspection of VAW-114.

SEP

1 Took Navy delivery from contractors of Bldg K-470 (Hangar 4) expansion into four fleet squadron hangar.

Commenced a program to assign permanent spaces to each tenant unit vice rotational space assignment.

8 RADM Thomas CASSIDY, OP-953, made a courtesy call on RADM GILLCRIST.

9 Deployed CVW-2 with VF-1, VF-2 and VAW-117 in Full Mission Capable status.

11 ISIC Command Inspection of VF-154.

15 RADM DUNN, Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command, visited COMFITAEEWINGPAC Headquarters to discuss pertinent personnel problems.

24 ISIC Command Inspection of VF-114.

OCT

Three post-deployment aircraft and Ground Support Equipment material condition inspections were conducted on VF-24, VF-211 and VAW-116.

6 Mr. Joe Ziskind reported on board the Training Department as an Educational Specialist. This marks the first time that an educational specialist has been on board this staff.

9 ISIC Command Inspection of VF-51.

- 9 RVAW-110 Change of Command, CDR R. E. KORDALSKI relieved CAPT C. E. WARD.
- 15 RADM WARWICK, Commander, Naval Safety Center made a courtesy call on RADM GILLCRIST.
- 16 ISIC Command Inspection of VF-111.
- 27 Biennial Fleet Exercise Publication Number Two Review hosted by COMFITAEEWINGPAC.
- 28 Major General VINCENT, Commander Marine Air Group ONE visited COMFITAEEWINGPAC Headquarters for a courtesy call on RADM GILLCRIST.

NOV

- 10 CDR A. W. GROMAN detaches COMFITAEEWINGPAC to report as XO, USS RANGER (CV-61) via Senior Officer Ship Material Readiness Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho. CDR (b) (6) assumed the position of VAW Readiness Officer.
- 20 Visit by RADM P. C. CONRAD, Assistant Commander for Force Distribution, Naval Military Personnel Command for briefings and discussions.

DEC

- 10 ISIC Command Inspection of Navy Fighter Weapons School.
- 17 The COMFITAEEWINGPAC FRAMP Building (Bldg-631) was officially opened for the mission of conducting fleet replacement maintenance training.
- 20 ISIC Command Inspection of VF-126.

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT SUMMARY

7 JAN	VF-151	Over rotation/frozen flight control off catapult-crew ejected
9 JAN	VC-7	Spin/crew eject - alpha injuries to crew
14 JAN	VC-7/VF-213	Taxi collision
3 MAR	VF-124	Misaligned upon takeoff. Aircraft crashed in nearby community of Santee.
5 JUN	VF-51	Towing injury.
5 AUG	VF-151	Aircrew ejection sequence at NAS Cubi Point, R.P., in FCLP pattern
31 OCT	VF-126	Aircraft crash while engaged in ACM. Alpha injury to pilot.
3 NOV	VF-111	F-14 lost over the side of USS KITTY HAWK.
30 NOV	VF-1	Elevator door closed on aircraft onboard USS RANGER.
10 DEC	VF-21	Landed short of runway.

COMFITAEEWWINGPAC annual accident rate .71 - lowest in four years.

Subordinate Units and Homeports

NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA

- NAS Miramar
- CVW-2 (USS RANGER)
- CVW-11 (USS AMERICA)
- CVW-14 (USS CORAL SEA)
- CVW-15 (USS KITTY HAWK)
- VF-112 F-14 FRS
- VF-126 A-4 FRS
- RVAW-110 E-2 FRS
- VFP-63 F-8 FRS
- NFWS F-5

VF-21	F-4	VAW-112	E-2C
VF-154	F-4	VAW-113	E-2B
VF-1	F-14	VAW-114	E-2C
VF-2	F-14	VAW-116	E-2C
VF-24	F-14	VAW-117	E-2B
VF-211	F-14		
VF-114	F-14		
VF-213	F-14	Reserve Units:	
VF-51	F-14	VF-301	F-4S
Vf-111	F-14	VF-302	F-4S
		VAW-88	E-2B

VC-13 A-4

NAF El Centro, CA

NAVSTA Yokosuka, Japan (USS MIDWAY)

VF-151	F-4S
VF-161	F-4S
VAW-115	E-2B

NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii

VC-1 TA-4J, SH-3G, VP-3A, VC-118

NAS Pt. Mugu, CA

VX-4	F-14/F-4
GMU-41	

OPERATIONAL TRAINING

1. 1980 was a year of implementation for COMFITAEEWWINGPAC OPS. New programs for operational training and spirited competition were implemented during the year. The following listed programs were established.

TAP - Turnaround Adversary Program

FAST - Fleet Air Superiority Training

"Hey Rube" - Maritime Air Superiority Exercises

No Notice Missile Shoots

CFAWP Fighter Derby

"High Noon" - Gun Derby

The following fleet winners distinguished themselves in CFAWP competitions:

"High Noon" 5-12 May
VF-111 Winner

Fighter Derby 26 July - 5 August
VF-213 Winner

2. During the year the COMFITAEEWWINGPAC Intelligence Support Center pursued an ambitious inter-service exchange program with Air Force aircrews and Intelligence Officers.

6-7 FEB Navy/Air Force tour NAS Miramar, North Island and Ballast Point.

27-28 FEB Navy/Air Force tour March AFB.

AUG Hosted the 22nd Bombardment Wing and the 15th Air Force on board USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

A briefing of USN Indian Ocean OPS was presented to Air Force personnel at March AFB.

4-5 SEP Navy personnel flew with the Air Force in B-52 for "Busy Observer".

The COMFITAEEWWINGPAC Intelligence Support Center also provided briefings and information for Marine instructors at Marine Air Controllers School.

Field Trips for intelligence officers at NAS Miramar and North Island sponsored by COMFITAEEWINGPAC ISC are as follows:

- (1) TRW Corporation - Satellite
- (2) Rockwell Corporation - Space Shuttle
- (3) USS BLUEFIN - Attack Sub
- (4) Air Force Space Systems Command - Satellite Developments
- (5) Desert Survival Techniques

COMFITAEEWINGPAC ISC also sponsored an Electronic Warfare Orientation course given at NAS Miramar.

